

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 261313Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3303

S E C R E T KINSHASA 5758

EXDIS

FROM VANCE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - PARA 5: NAME IN LINE SEVEN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS US CG PFOR

SUBJECT: THIRD MEETING WITH MOBUTU: ABORTIVE COUP

REF: KINSHASA 5619, 5641 AND STATE 149116

1. MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU THIS EVENING (JUNE 25)  
AT 6:30 AT HIS RESIDENCE HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR ME TO DISCUSS  
WITH HIM WHAT REACTIONS WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP TO  
DATE REGARDING HIS ASSERTIONS OF US OFFICIAL COMPLICITY IN  
THE PLOT. I STARTED BY SAYING THAT WE WERE BY NO MEANS  
ASSERTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PLOT BUT WE WERE STATING  
THAT IF THERE WERE A PLOT, THERE HAD BEEN NO US GOVERNMENT  
COMPLICITY. I ADDED THAT PERHAPS I DID NOT HAVE ALL THE  
EVIDENCE AND IF THERE WERE MORE, I HOPED HE WOULD GIVE IT  
TO ME. BUT AS FAR AS I COULD SEE ON THE BASIS OF THE  
EVIDENCE HE HAD MADE AVAILABLE THUS FAR, I COULD NOT HONESTLY  
SEE PARTICIPATION. I THEN FLASHED DEPTEL 149116 AT HIM  
TO IMPRESS HIM AND THEN GAVE HIM A FRENCH TRANSLATION  
THAT WE HAD URGENTLY DONE, AMOUNTING TO A PARAPHRASE  
AND LEAVING OUT ONLY THE KABAMBA REMARKS ABOUT BOMBING THE  
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND DYING A HERO. HE DID NOT HAVE  
TIME THEN TO READ THE TRANSLATION BUT I HAVE HIM A SUMMARY,  
INCLUDING THE FACT THAT THE TWO AFGHAN OFFICERS WERE IN

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THE US DURING THE AFGHAN COUP AND HAD THUS NOT GAINED ANY

EXPERTISE BY HAVING PARTICIPATED IN IT. I SAID THAT I ASSUMED FROM SEEING THE LENGTH OF TIME AND NUMBER OF UNRELATED COURSES SINCE JANUARY 1973 THAT THEY HAD TAKEN THAT INDEED THE NEW AFGHAN GOVERNMENT WAS HAPPY THAT WE WERE KEEPING THEM IN THE US AS WHAT ALMOST AMOUNTED TO PERENNIAL STUDENTS. I THEN ADDED THAT KABAMABA, FAR FROM BEING HIGHLY REGARDED UNIVERSALLY BY HIS US ARMY CONTACTS, WAS REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN A RATHER PAINFUL PERSON TO DEAL WITH. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, MOBUTU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT KABAMBA WAS A RATHER DIFFICULT PERSON TO DEAL WITH.

2. REGARDING MPIKA'S PAPER, I TOLD HIM THAT IT DEPENDED FROM WHERE ONE STARTED READING THIS PAPER WHETHER ONE CONCLUDED IT WAS AN ANALYSIS OF A SITUATION PREPARATORY TO COUP PLANNING OR WHETHER IT WAS AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE BY A RATHER ABLE STUDENT. I THEN GAVE HIM ABOUT SIX COUNTER-INSURGENCY LESSON PLANS WHICH WERE SENT OUT FROM WASHINGTON (SOME IN FRENCH) TO SHOW HIM THAT FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE BEEN TEACHING STUDENTS OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES COUNTER-INSURGENCY IN THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD HELP THE STABILITY OF THOSE FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. I SAID I WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT MPIKA'S PAPER WAS JUST SUCH A PAPER.

3. I THEN ADDRESSED THE PROBLEM OF THE PIECE OF NOTEBOOK FOUND IN MPIKA'S BRIEFCASE AND STATED THAT I HAD INVESTIGATED THIS AS HAD METHVEN. WE HAD FOUND THAT HITCHCOCK HAD INDEED GIVEN THE NUMBER TO MPIKA AND HAD SEEN HIM, BUT I COULD PROMISE HIM ON MY WORD OF HONOR THAT IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY PLOTTING, THAT THE YOUNG MAN HAD BEEN SEVERELY REPRIMANDED, AND THAT IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

4. TURNING TO FALLU'S ENGLISH TEACHER, I SAID THAT THIS MAN, WHO WAS A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER AND WHO HAD THEN JOINED THE AGENCY AND HAD LEFT IT IN THE MID-60'S, HAD INDEED BEEN AN ENGLISH TEACHER OF GENERAL AND MRS. FALLU BUT THAT SOUR SERVICE KNOWS HIM AND CANNOT BELIEVE HE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH COUP PLOTTING. IN ANY CASE, HE HAS NOT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE US GOVERNMENT FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS.

5. I THEN RAISED WITH MOBUTU THE ASSERTION HE HAD MADE IN SECRET

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A PUBLIC STATEMENT, BUT NOT TO ME, THAT HIS ENEMIES HAD STUDIED HIS EVERY MOVEMENT IN ORDER TO OVERTHROW HIM. I SAID I KNEW THAT HIS FRIENDS HAD DONE SO ALSO, BECAUSE ON TWO OCCASIONS THE US GOVERNMENT HAD INFORMED HIM OF ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW HIM AND HAD, AT HIS REQUEST, TRAINED HIS BODYGUARD. I SAID HE WOULD REMEMBER MR. KEITHAN WHO GAVE THE FIRST COURSE TO HIS BODYGUARD AND WHO BECAME A PERSONAL FRIEND OF HIS. I THEN GAVE HIM A FRENCH

RENDITION OF THE COURSE WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN THE BODYGUARD  
AND HE KEPT IT TO STUDY.

6. I TOLD MOBUTU WE HAD ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT HIS SECURITY AND REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD RECENTLY WARNED HIM OF THREATS AGAINST HIM. I SPOKE OF INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE. I RECALLED THAT HE, HOLDEN ROBERTO AND I HAD JUST BEEN ANALYZING WHAT APPEARED TO BE GOING ON IN ANGOLA AND SHARED THE HOPE THAT SOVIET-SUPPORTED AGOSTINHO NETO WOULD NOT GAIN CONTROL. I THEN SAID THAT AS I HAD BEEN TALKING TO HOLDEN ROBERTO ABOUT THIS I BEGAN TO ASK MYSELF WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM DAMAGING RELATIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND I ADDED THAT I DID NOT KNOW WHO THE PERSON WAS, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE ON THE RARE GAINERS.

7. HE MADE A FEW INTERVENTIONS AS I PROCEEDED AND REITERATED SOME OF THE ASSERTIONS HE HAD MADE IN OUR EARLIER MEETING BUT THEY WERE PALPABLY DIMINISHING IN FERVOR. ONE OF THESE INTERVENTIONS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE "JEWISH UNDERGROUND" WAS BEHIND THE PLOT, AND HE ADDED THAT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE WAS EVEN EVIDENCE THAT DAVID ROCKEFELLER MIGHT BE INVOLVED. I POINTED OUT THAT THE WORD "UNDERGROUND" IN ENGLISH WAS USED IN REFERENCE TO ILLEGAL MOVEMENTS AND I EXPOSTULATED THAT MOBUTU MIGHT JUST AS WELL BELIEVE THAT I WAS INVOLVED AS THAT DAVID ROCKEFELLER WAS. I WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT IN LOOKING FOR POSSIBLE SECURITY THREATS IT WAS WORTH KEEPING IN MIND SUCH THINGS AS BIG BOXING EVENTS, LIKE THE ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT (FOR WHICH I COMPLIMENTED HIM WARMLY), OFTEN BROUGHT IN THEIR TRAIN UNSAVORY CHARACTERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERWORLD

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WHO BORE WATCHING. MOBUTU NODDED WHEN I SAID THAT LOTS OF MONEY WAS PROBABLY WON AND LOST IN QUESTIONABLE WAYS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIGHT.

8. AFTER THIS WE CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS OF OTHER PROBLEMS (SPETELS) IN AS CORDIAL A MOOD AS I HAVE EVER SEEN HIM.

9. MOBUTU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN AT LEAST BRIEFLY, AFTER THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD A CHANCE TO CONSIDER HIS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ANGOLA AND THE TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HE BELIEVES HIS GOVERNMENT NEEDS (SPETELS).

ANDREW

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